

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration ("Amendment") is in response to the Office action dated August 16, 2006. Claims 2-5, 9, 12-26, 29, 31-38 and 41-50 are currently pending in this application and are allowed. Claims 6-8, 10, 11, 27, 28, 30, 39, and 40 which were previously withdrawn have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the helpful discussion of September 25, 2006 in which it was confirmed that the restriction requirement of February 25, 2006 is maintained. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of non-elected groups II and III in future applications.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

In the August 16, 2006 Office Action, claims 1, 6, 8, 27, 28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Michaelson et al. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being redundant with claim 2.

Applicants note that claims 6, 8, 27, 28, 30 and 11 were previously withdrawn, and as such rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and 35 U.S.C. § 112 are considered moot.

Applicants have cancelled claim 1 out of expediency without prejudice.

Previously withdrawn claims 6-8, 10, 11, 27, 28, 30, 39, and 40 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 2-5, 9, 12-26, 29, 31-38 and 41-50. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner grant allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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